

Media ownership rules

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I believe that the FCC has not only failed in its responsibility of managing a publicly owned resource, the electromagnetic spectrum, but it is preventing the public from enjoying the benefits of open communications. The FCC's current contemplation of further relaxing the rules of ownership do a disservice to our democracy by limiting the number of voices (corporate entities) who actually can speak to the American people.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. A public resource is managed for the benefit of the people not for the aggrandizement or enrichment of the few.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. This marketplace has been constricted by the increasing paucity of different points of view.

The public's interest will be served best by not only decreasing the number of stations, both radio and TV, that a single entity may own in any market but also by reinstating the Fairness Doctrine.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I do not think that economic interests are paramount in the managing of a vital public resource, the health and welfare of our democracy is.

Sincerely,

Charles Amacher